

28 January, 1985

Hunt returns to testify in own behalf

JEFF HARDY

MIAMI

Convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt returns to the witness stand on his own behalf today in his libel suit against an ultra-right weekly that linked him with the assassination of President John Kennedy.

Hunt, who served 33 months in prison for his part in the Watergate break-in, refuted charges Monday that he was in Dallas when Kennedy was assassinated 21 years ago. He said the August 1978 article by The Spotlight angered him because he thought allegations concerning the assassination were behind him.

"I was upset about it because I had been released from prison in 1977 (for Watergate) and here it was 1978 and the many accusations against me about my involvement in the Kennedy assassination had been put to rest, I thought," said Hunt.

Hunt also said his wife Dorothy had picked him up at his office in Washington minutes before Kennedy was shot. He said he heard about the shooting on a radio newscast while waiting in his car while his wife was shopping.

"We were going to have Chinese food that night and we went down to Sixth Street where most of the Chinese restaurants are so she could shop," he said. "I was seated in the car with my infant son when I first heard that Kennedy had been shot."

Hunt is suing the paper, a 360,000 circulation tabloid operated by the Washington-based Liberty Lobby for a published report written by former CIA agent Victor Marchetti that linked Hunt with the assassination.

Hunt's comments to the jury of four women and two men disputed remarks by defense attorney Mark Lane, who said he had a deposition from a former mistress of Cuban President Fidel Castro that placed Hunt in Dallas the day before the Kennedy assassination.

Lane said Marita Lorenz, who met Castro Jan. 1, 1959, was "running guns" to anti-Castro people in Miami for the CIA in 1963. In November of that year she was asked to go to Dallas as a decoy with members of the organization, Lane said.

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